TC 7463

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Archbishop Aram KESHISHIAN
Moderator, Central Committee WCC
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Mr. Moderator, Dear Brother

Grace and Peace be with you.

Some days ago I felt run down. Taken by a strong fever, that seems to be of a rare kind, I wait until the last moment, keeping the hope to feel better enough to fly to Geneva and be present at the Central Committe meeting. But I must aknowledge now that, in spite I feel a little better, I am still to much weak to answer the exigences of such meeting. So I regret to inform you that, for health reasons, I am not able to attend the Central Committee meeting.

I sincerely wish the best blessings of our God for the works of the Central Committe.

I wonder if, doing it in this last moment, my colleague pastor José Manuel Leite could be recognized as my substitute! I would appreciate it very much.

I would like to use this communication to put again, before the Central Committee, a problem that concerns our churches very much: the situation in East-Timor. As you remember last year a proposal was agreed that recommended "the new Unit III be asked to consider the matter in cooperation with CCA and PGI, and report back and action taken".

Since last meeting of C.C. new tragic events occured in East Timor, and this time all the world have had the opportunity to see what did happen. But after the massacre in Santa Cruz cemetery in november 91, the sufferings of that people are not finished. Persecutions, arrests, trials, etc., not only continue but have been intensified. And we see with deep concern tryings to make fall down again an heavy curtain of silence over the sufferings of the peolple of East Timor.

The matter has been present again in the last Nacional Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Portugal, and a motion has been approved, that I am offering here.

The news concerning the actions of WCC in this matter are

not abundant, in spite that we know something has been done. But we are sure the role of WCC in this matter could be a much more important one. So, in the name of the churches of Portugal, unanimous in supporting this cause, we are asking that a much larger mandate be given by C.C. in order to make the WCC to play a stronget role in the tryings to find a solution to this problem, namely with actions pushing the Indonesian Governement to accept the United Nations resolutions on East-Timor and to accept to start conversations with Portuguese Authorities and representatives of People of Timor to reach a just solution for the problem. We are sure this will be coherent with all the history of WCC and all the values of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Life the Council and we all are ready to fight for.

With warmest greetings

Sincerely Yours,

José da Silveira Salvador

CC.- Dr. E. Castro
General Secretary
- Dr. Charles Harper
- Pastor José Leite